

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

For the reasons presented below and based on an evaluation of the information contained in the supporting references, I have determined that the **Rosebud Island Protection Project** is not a major Federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. An Environmental Impact Statement will, accordingly, not be prepared.

Reasons

The purpose of the proposed action is to protect the remaining shorelines in a complex of three small islands located off the southeast tip of Rosebud Island in Navigation Pool 7. A combination of offshore and nearshore structures will be used. Four offshore structures would be constructed, including three rock mounds and one experimental rock/log island. The nearshore structure will be a rock wedge along nearly 280' of shoreline on the outer island.

The complex of three small islands protects beds of submersed and rooted floating aquatic plants from excessive wave action. About 80 acres of shallow backwater habitat are protected; nearly 50% of these acres are vegetated.

The project area is within the range of 2 federally listed endangered and threatened species (bald eagle and Higgins' eye pearly mussel) and one candidate species (eastern massasauga rattlesnake). A mussel survey was completed in the project area by staff from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Based on the results of this survey, the habitat requirements of the various species, and the relatively small area affected by construction, this project is not likely to adversely affect federal or state-listed threatened/endangered species. Threatened and Endangered Species Section 7 consultations were completed with Mr. Gary Wege of the Twin Cities Field Office and Mr. David Heath of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Office located in La Crosse, WI. Both agreed with this determination.

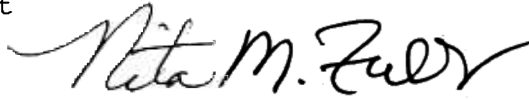
The proposed action would comply with all applicable federal environmental laws, executive orders, and policies, and state and local laws and policies including the Clean Air Act, as amended; the Clean Water Act of 1977, as amended; the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended; the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended; Executive Order 11988 - Floodplain Management; and Executive Order 11990 - Protection of Wetlands.

In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the National Register of Historic Places was consulted. No archaeological sites are located in the project area. Because site preparation along the shoreline of the small outer island may expose soil, personnel from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will complete a reconnaissance of the area prior to, or during, project construction.

Permit applications are being submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for Chapter 30 and Section 404 permits. Approval to use the Mosey Boat Landing to load material onto barges is also being sought from the Town of Onalaska, Wisconsin.

Supporting References

1. Environmental Assessment



ACTING

Regional Director

4.30.2003

Date